stakes in Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) to become a vertically integrated company.

Losses suffered by oil companies in post APM era

1447. SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and IBP have together lost about Rs. 1600 crore in the first 45 days of dismantling of administered princing mechanism from April 1, on account of selling products below the cost of crude;

(b) if so, whether he has stated that the 10th Five Year Plan should take into account the previous achievements and reflect ground realities;

(c) whether he has also sought changes in the draft plan document relating to the Ministry including privatisation of oil companies; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check the loss suffered by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With a view to facilitate a smooth transition from the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) era to a free market scenario, the public sector oil companies did not increase the price of petrol and diesel in the months of April and May, 2002. An appropriate financial mechanism will be devised to consider their effects on oil marketing companies. They have increased the prices of petrol and diesel in June 2002 taking into account the prevalent international oil prices.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has suggested that various programmes relating to improving oil security in the country may be duly highlighted in the Tenth Five Year Plan document. Relevant details on developments in the petroleum sector during the Ninth Plan and thrust areas for the Tenth Plan will be appropriately incorporated.

Availability of CNG

1448. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) was supposed to make available 16.1 lakh kg. of CNG from 30th June this year per day in Delhi but is dispensing only 4.8 lakh kg. per day;

(b) whether CNG buses on road have crossed more than 6000 whereas the gas supply have hardly gone up;

(c) whether with the dearth of CNG, school kids are compelled to go by 'Tangas' to their school as buses spend whole nights at the CNG filling station; and

(d) if so, what are the Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRISANTOSH GANGWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Supreme Court order dated 05.04.2002, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) was to make available 16.1 lakh kg. per day of CNG in the NCT of Delhi by 30th June, 2002. However, the average sales of IGL was 4.52 lakh kg. per day on an average for the month of June, 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the plans of IGL the compression capacity is expected to increase in a phased manner from the present level of 6.9 lakh kg. per day to 16.1 lakh kg. per day by June, 2003.

(c) and (d) IGL has earmarked some mother-stations dedicated for meeting CNG requirement of school buses only. For the current population of school buses the existing facilities are reportedly adequate.

Switching of mobile phones at petrol pumps

1449. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been sent to the State Governments for issuing orders to switch off mobile phones at petrol pumps;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some States fire service authorities find it difficult to implement any measure in the absence of specific orders of the State Government; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure safety of petrol pumps?